

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 28, 2007. At that time, claims 1-10, 12-31, 33-43, 45-46 and 49-53 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show the "locking hinges" recited in the claims. The Examiner also indicated that the "locking hinges" were not enabled, and thus, the Examiner rejected all of the pending claims under the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1-3, 12-14, 33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,224,093 to Ochiai et al (hereinafter "Ochiai"). Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,987 to Cart (hereinafter "Cart"). Claims 4-9, 15, 22-26, 29-30, 41, 42, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,069,477 to Shiraki (hereinafter "Shiraki"). Claims 10, 27, 31, 43, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai and Shiraki and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,364,345 to Lang (hereinafter "Lang"). The Examiner did indicate that claims 16-21 and 36-40 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner also allowed claims 49-53.

By this paper, Applicants respond to the issues raised in the Office Action by amending claims 1, 16, 19, 24, 33, 35, 37-40 and 41 and by canceling claim 36. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims.

I. Drawings

As noted above, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to show the "locking hinges" as recited in the claims. As a result of this paper, this claim language has been deleted from the claims. Accordingly, this drawing objection is moot. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

II. Enablement Rejection

The Examiner rejected all of the pending claims under the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112 on grounds that the claim language "locking hinges" was not enabled. As a result of this paper, this claim language has been deleted from the claims. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Claims

As a result of this paper, the independent claims 1, 24, 33, 35, and 41 have been amended to recite that the non-circular steering wheel that includes two handles comprised of first and second handle portions that separate to deploy the deployable reaction surface. This claim element is taken from the language of allowable claim 36. As indicated in the prior Office Action, this claim element is not found in any of the prior art references. Accordingly, as the present claims now include a claim element not found in the prior art references, the present claims are allowable over the cited references. Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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